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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Soviet Wages and Methods of Payment 2. Medical Facilities and Hospitalization Procedures	DATE DISTR.	29 MAR 1956
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25 MAR 1956

[redacted] a report on Soviet wages and methods of payment and a report on medical facilities and hospitalization procedures.

2. The first report provides some details on wage levels, payment procedures, payments for overfulfillment of norms and illness, wage deductions, and some general information on retail organizations. The second report includes some details on the obtaining of a medical excuse from work.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC							
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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are paid so little in the Soviet Union that it is impossible to supply their minimal requirements, let alone save any-

minimum living wage is 700 to 800 rubles, whereas the actual minimum wage for a healthy person is only 400 to 500 rubles. 25X1

It is impossible to find a worker in the Soviet Union who looks well fed. A worker can't afford to buy shoes and suit at the same time. A laborer does not enjoy the right to protest against low wages. Such action is regarded as inimical to the existing regime and as being aimed against the regime - with the consequences that entails. No working man in the Soviet Union can afford to own two good suits at one time.

2. Wages for Skilled Workers

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Unskilled labor (ditch diggers, loaders) | 400 - 700 r. |
| 2. Drivers (tractor drivers, mechanics) | 500 -1000 " |
| 3. Miners, metallurgists | 1000 -2000 " |
| 4. Operators of combines, bulldozers, steam shovels | 700 -1000 " |

Administrative personnel:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Director of a trust | 5000-10000 " |
| 2. Trust department head | 2000 -4000 " |
| 3. Mine director | 3000 -5000 " |
| 4. Head of a district | 2000 -3000 " |

3. Procedure for Collecting Wages, Pay Periods

Wages are usually paid twice a month. An advance is paid out for the ~~current month~~ first half of the current month from the 15th to the 25th;

for the past month are paid from the 1st to the 10th of the month. However, when there are financial difficulties this schedule is often violated and wages are paid 10 to 15 days late. The advance is issued in the amount of 50 per cent of the worker's wage, based on an assumed fulfillment of his norm. The final payment takes into account the worker's nonfulfillment of his ~~quota~~ quota, absence because of illness, overfulfillment of quota, premiums and raises. If the worker fulfills his quota by less than 80%, he is nonetheless guaranteed payment of a minimum of 80% of his wages. The company does not pay for sick leave, which is taken care of by government insurance. For overfulfillment of his plan a worker is paid according to the following scale (approximate):

Fulfillment by 101%	110% of normal wage	plus 1% equals 111%
" 111%	120%	" 1% " 121%
" 130%	150%	" " 25X1
" 150%	180%	and so forth.

The norms are set high enough so that it is not possible to overfulfill the plan to any very great extent. However, there is no prohibition against working overtime, which is paid for at 150% of the normal rate for the first two hours and at 200% for any time over that.

According to regulations, wages are not supposed to be paid during working hours. Big enterprises have special cashier windows for the payment of wages. In small enterprises, workers collect their wages at the accountant's office, from someone sitting behind a desk. Sometimes workers are paid on the basis of pay slips (kassovyye ordera), which are given out upon signing of the register (vedomost'). The latter has roughly the following appearance:

Amount due		Over-time	Miscellaneous	Total due	Withheld				Total	Paid out	Name of worker	Signature
Monthly	Piece-work				Loan	Income tax	Child less tax	advance				

The worker takes his slip to the cashier, where he receives his wages. If there is any confusion about the correctness of the amount he has been paid, he takes this matter up with the accountant, and not with the cashier.

In addition to this, so-called raschetnyye knizhki are supposed to be kept on each worker at large enterprises. The worker keeps his own knizhka, and twice a month the accountant's office enters in it the amount of wages paid out to him.

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SECRETPayment for Hospitalized Workers

When a worker is incapacitated through illness, he is recompensed after six months from the day he starts work, at the following rate:

Term of Employment	Percent of average earnings for past 2 mos	
up to 6 mos.	0	25X1
6 mos. to 1 yr.	50%	
1 yr. to 3 yrs.	75%	
over 3 yrs.	100%	

Workers who are not member of a trade union receive only half of the amounts given above. Hospitalization is paid for at this rate only in the case of two months of uninterrupted illness. At the end of two months the worker is transferred to a pension, which is considerably lower than the compensation ~~by~~ po bol'nichnym listam (according to certificates on treatment in hospital). The accountant's office pays out the sums due from the bol'nichny list, for which the office then charges the government insurance office.

5. Deductions

Income tax, tax for childless persons, and contributions to the State Loan are deducted from a worker's salary. The income tax is withheld at roughly the following rate:

Income up to 260 rubles	no income tax
260 "	4 rubles
600 "	25 "
1,000 "	70 "
1,300 "	121 "

Tax on childless persons:

With three children	no tax
" two "	.5%
" one child	3.0%
" no children	6.0%

State loan. Subscription to the state loan is usually at the beginning of May, and the amount may not be less than the equivalent of two weeks' salary. This amount is withheld at the rate of 1/20 of the total over a period of ten months, from May through February, from the semi-monthly wage payments. When the last yearly instalment is withheld from the worker's wages, he is given a bond. Bonds are issued in denominations of 25, 50, 100, 200, and 1,000 rubles, but ~~maxbond~~ ~~maxrx100xrublexix~~ but certificates with a denomination of less than 100 rubles do not have the standing of a complete bond. Returns on the bonds are gained in the form of ~~ix~~ raffles held twice a year. The usual subscription to the state loan is in the amount equivalent to one month's salary.

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In addition to the foregoing deductions, trade union members pay dues in the amount of one percent of their wages. The dues are collected by a representative of the trade union, who pastes stamps in the worker's book for the amount paid. Party members also pay dues, which are graduated according to the worker's earnings. 25X1

In addition to all this, there are such voluntary organizations as Friend of the Forest (Drug lesa), the Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army (Dosarm), and others. Membership dues in these societies come to about three rubles a year.

Rent is at the rate of 1.20 rubles per square meter of living space. However, it is hard to get quarters. It is comparatively easy to get a place to live in areas where the employer furnishes workers their apartments. With a shower, water costs about 1 to 3 rubles a month. Electricity costs 40 kopeks per kilowatt. Depending on the cost of the meal, tips in restaurants come to between one and ten rubles. One can forego tipping altogether in workers' restaurants.

6. How a Worker Spends his Pay

When a bachelor earning between 400 and 1,000 rubles collects his pay, he usually buys some needed item of clothing, and the rest is put aside for food. Such a worker usually eats at his place of employment, where he can get breakfast for 4 to 5 rubles and dinner for 8 to 12 rubles. If he eats at home, he prepares his own meal on an oil stove. The only kind of entertainment he can afford is going to the movies or to some public garden.

Anyone in the Soviet Union can take part in sports. There are sport societies attached to factories and plants. The favorite sports are soccer, volley ball, basket ball, and in the suburbs swimming and rowing.

Food is a greater problem in the big cities, where one has to eat in state owned cafes and lunch rooms, where they overcharge for everything (in the lunch rooms).

7. Distribution of Goods

The following retail organizations supply the population in Transcaucasia in peace time: state trading organizations (gostorgovli), cooperatives, ORS (Workers' Supply Section) and URS (Workers' Supply Administration), and the koikhhoz markets.

In large cities such as Tbilisi, the population is supplied through the state trading organizations. There is a large network of retail trade outlets. There are also specialized stores such as bakeries, butchers, greengrocers, fruit stores, stores for soft drinks, electrical appliances, chemical goods, building materials, and other things. There is also a network of restaurants, cafes, lunch rooms, and pubs. A worker can't afford to pay the prices in restaurants and cafes.

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In villages the population is kept supplied by a network of consumer societies. The assortment of goods and the quality of the service is less good here than in the cities, particularly in regard to food, because the farmer usually lives on what he grows on his private plot and on the produce he receives in return for his labor. Workers who live in settlements for industrial workers are supplied by the ORS (Workers' Supply Section). The retail prices are the same at all of these enterprises. The institutions concerned with the purveyance of meals are divided into ~~xxx~~ categories. ORS restaurants for workers are usually in the third category, and prices there are comparatively low. Such places are often cafeterias. The ORS enterprises are controlled both by the administration of the mine, factory, or plant, to which the restaurant is attached and by an organization of worker controllers. This provides some measure of security against malpractice on the part of the restaurant employees and improves the situation for the workers. Generally ~~xxx~~ speaking, the economic situation of the worker depends on his relations with the administration. The latter uses various legal and illegal means to improve the lot of workers that it regards as devoted to their employers and to get rid of those that are incompetent or intractable.

There are kolkhoz markets in all cities, and the population usually buys fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products there, because the produce is fresher ~~xxxx~~ than at government stores. Government stores for the most handle frozen and canned goods.

Prices at kolkhoz markets are usually just ~~xxxx~~ a little above or a little below those in the state stores, depending on the season. However, scarce goods are much more expensive at kolkhoz markets than in the government stores. 25X1

With the exceptions named below, the supply problem in the Soviet Union has undergone a great improvement lately: Spices, rice, good wool material, household goods. Some goods, such as sugar and butter, are scarce ~~periodically~~ periodically.

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SECRETILLNESS AND HOSPITALIZATION

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1. Illness on the Part of an Unemployed Person

In the Soviet Union, anyone is entitled to free medical care, ~~xx~~ regardless of how serious his illness may be. Free medical care is supplied by the Ministry of Health. There is a network of ~~xxx~~ dispensaries, hospitals, and ~~xx~~ polyclinics in the cities and villages. It is usually not difficult for a person who is seriously ill to get into one of these institutions. If he is not able to go to a dispensary himself he can phone up or send someone there to report his address. In such a case one must first know which dispensary serves the district in which this address is located, because each dispensary and hospital serves one certain district. When the doctor has come and examined the ~~xxxxxx~~ patient, he determines whether the case is in need of hospitalization.

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2. Illness While Travelling

There are medical attendants or stations on the highways, trains, and airways. If someone is taken ill on a trip, he should report this to the conductor, who informs the doctor at the nearest medical aid station. The doctor comes to inspect the patient, and if necessary he takes him off the train and sends him to a hospital. The same applies to travelling on planes, ships, and buses.

3. Bol'nichny List

When a doctor considers that a patient is not in fit condition to go to work, he issues a bol'nichny list. A local doctor can not issue such a certificate with a validity greater than 10 days. Thereafter the decision of the medical commission is necessary for its prolongation. The medical commission is authorized to issue a bol'nichny list with a validity of up to two months, after which time the commission places him on the list of disabled, and the patient receives a pension. If necessary, the patient may receive free medical care during the entire course of his illness. The bol'nichny list is authorization for not going to work and for obtaining ~~xx~~ disability compensation. After the expiration of the certificate, the worker turns it in at his place of employment. If he is no longer employed there, and if he fell ill no later than two weeks after quitting his job, this last employer will nonetheless pay the bol'nichny list.

A person who is taken ill while he is looking for a job proceeds the same way as any other unemployed person.

4. Procedure at Dispensaries and Hospitals

The procedure at gospitali (large hospitals, usually military) is about the same as at other hospitals. When someone is taken ill, he calls the district (rayonny) doctor in the usual way, and the latter gives him a list with a validity of ~~xxxxxxx~~ up to ten days. If the patient has not recovered by the expiration of that time,

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the medical commission attached to the district (rayonnaya) ~~mk~~ polyclinic determines whether he is in need of treatment in a gospital'. When the patient arrives at the gospital' a questionnaire is filled out on the basis of the order (napravleniye) of the polyclinic and a history of the disease is written up. If the patient is employed, a bol'nichny list is started for him; if not, the certificate 125X1t needed.

On the first day the chief doctor examines the patient and prescribes treatment. If the patient is in very bad condition (unable to move, loss of memory), someone close to the patient is allowed to look after him, in addition to the nurses; or it may be that someone is hired for this purpose. If the disease is infectious, additional care is permitted, but the attendant is not allowed to leave the hospital. Since hospital fare leaves something to be desired, persons close to the patient are allowed to bring him food from home. The patient is checked out when he is out of danger. When a patient checks out he is handed his bol'nichny list, if he is employed. If the patient is in need for further rest following his release from the hospital, his bol'nichny list authorizes him to stay in bed at home for five days or more. If a person is not employed, he does not receive a bol'nichny list.

If the patient who is checking out is in need of a rest at a sanatorium, the gospital' issues him a certificate (spravka) entitling him to a pass (putevka).

If a person is suddenly taken seriously ill, a telephone call suffices to summon an ambulance to take him directly to the hospital, without the intervention of a polyclinic.

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